

## Amy Lacy

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**From:** JD and Ann Hall <annjdhall@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 8, 2022 12:04 PM  
**To:** Town Council Email Group; Amy Lacy  
**Subject:** Fw: Historic Preservation Commission

Please see the below email sent to the address on the TC website. I was told there were some email address errors and to send to these two addresses as well.

Thank you,

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** JD and Ann Hall <annjdhall@yahoo.com>  
**To:** jplunkett@zionsville-in.gov <jplunkett@zionsville-in.gov>; bburk@zionsville-in.gov <bburk@zionsville-in.gov>; achoi@zionsville-in.gov <achoi@zionsville-in.gov>; jculp@zionsville-in.gov <jculp@zionsville-in.gov>; jgarrett@zionsville-in.gov <jgarrett@zionsville-in.gov>; btraylor@zionsville-in.gov <btraylor@zionsville-in.gov>; cmelton@zionsville-in.gov <cmelton@zionsville-in.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 8, 2022, 08:16:30 AM EDT  
**Subject:** Historic Preservation Commission

Dear Council Members:

Thank you for your dedicated service and time to the Community of Zionsville. I am not in favor of the current "Draft" of the "Proposed" Historic Commission. This proposal is vastly different than what was represented in the Fall of 2021. Specifically, it now contains extensive rules, guidelines and expensive fees that take away all the control from the homeowners in the village and add to the cost of maintaining our homes.

As an owner of a home built in 1880, my full intention is to maintain (to the best of my ability) the historic features. I don't want to see historic homes demolished. But, in actual reality, once a homeowner purchases their home/property it should remain their "investment" and home and they should not have to be told by a Mayor Appointed Council on how to maintain it, landscape it, or worst-case scenario be sued by someone who doesn't feel they have kept the proper historic features.

I don't believe I should have to pay a fee (approximately \$800 per request, per Mr. Wayne Delong, September 2021) every time I want to make a change or do landscaping that is visible from the street view. In my case, that is both front and back. This is extremely time consuming, costly and plain ridiculous. If I want to change out my light fixtures on the front and back of my home, I should not have to send in a letter of appropriation, pay a fee and wait on the Mayor Appointed Council to approve. If I want to re-do my landscaping, I should not have to ask for approval. This will lead to many homeowners neglecting their properties as well as many just not asking for approval and doing what they want.

I believe the Homeowners (not a Mayor Appointed Council) should create (if majority voted for) a Homeowners Association. I have lived in many neighborhoods, and not once have we ever “passed” any homeowner guidelines/rules simply by sending out a postcard and asking people to complete online. Nor have I ever heard of a Town Council/Mayor appointed Neighborhood Association. I have a 90 year old and 84 year old neighbor and many others who do not work on the computer nor have access to a camera phone to scan a QR Code and vote in any way.

If the Town Council truly wants to hear what the majority of Homeowners in the Village want, there should be a well-advertised Home Owner Meeting, with ample opportunity for the residents to attend with the information on the proposed draft, not a post card delivered to homes with a QR Code asking if we want to “Save Historic Homes”. When that postcard survey was completed no one realized it was a “vote” for anything on the final draft of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Ask yourself, do you and your neighbors want to follow these same rules and regulations for your home? Do you want to pay to submit landscape plans, light fixture changes and possibly be told, that to replace your historic home windows you will have to pay \$7000.00 per window, just to keep the home “appropriate”. As was the case for a resident on Main Street. I should not have to file for a Historic Grant to replace my windows. I should be able to decide what is affordable for my family and my home. If this was set out prior to purchasing a home and knowing what you were getting into, that would be a choice. Village Residents are NOT allowed under this current proposal to make a choice. A Mayor Appointed Council will decide what Village Residents can and cannot do to their homes. With current home sales in the Village, I would say what we are currently doing is working just fine. Don’t make us adhere to something that no one else has to. We Love our homes and our neighborhood. It has and will continue to grow in value without having a Mayor Appointed Historic Commission.

I have heard that this is just to “Get the Commission” started. But, we know once something is in writing and established it is hard to get changed. Especially, when it is at the expense of homeowners.

These are just a few of my concerns. My apologies for not keeping it as short as I intended. I ask that you please vote “NO” on the proposed Historic Preservation Commission.

Thank you for your time and service!

Respectfully,

Ann Hall  
150 N. Main Street  
Zionsville, IN. 46077